

# Vocational education and training: European agenda and Finnish experience

Risto Raivio  
European Commission  
DG Education and Culture  
Head of sector: Vocational education and training policy

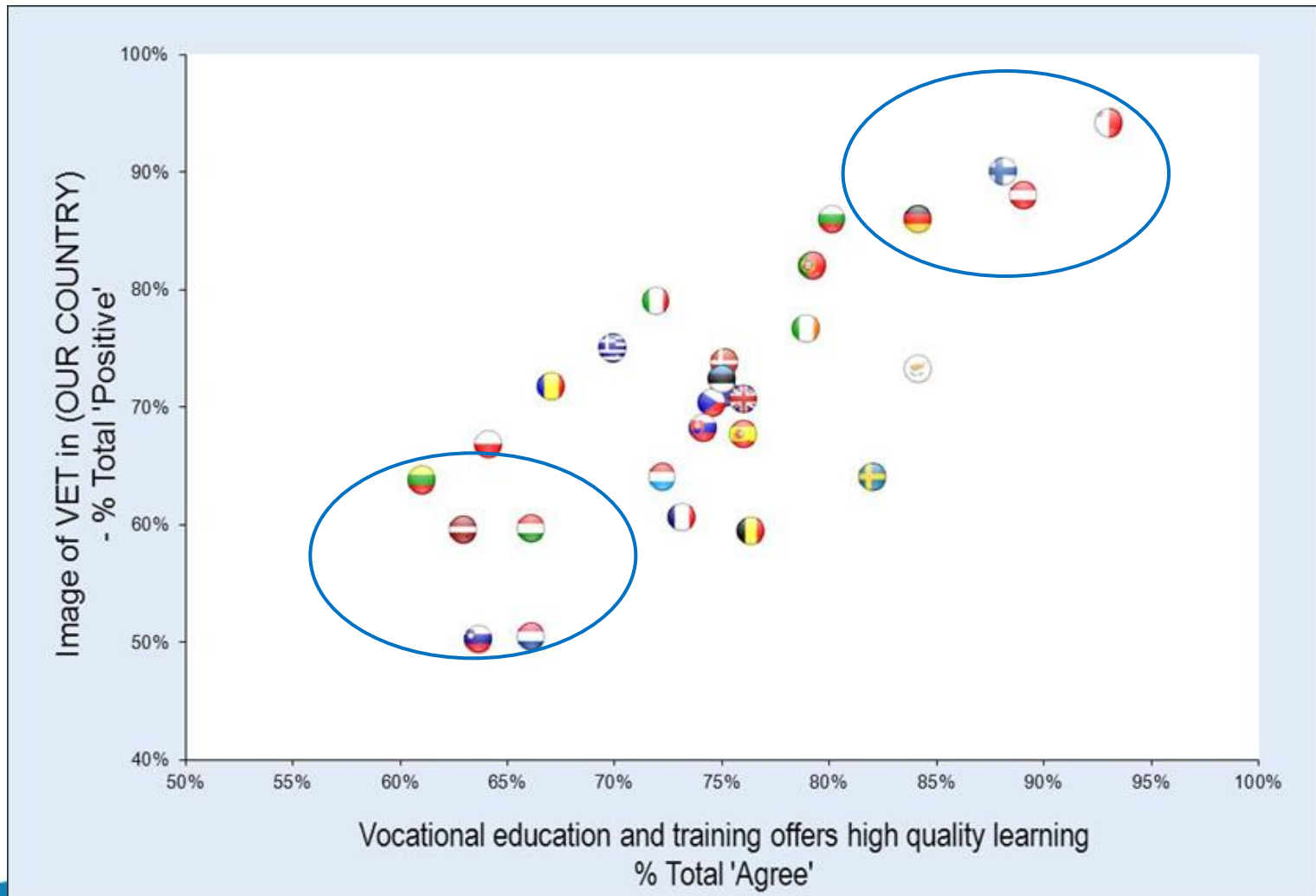
# Vocational training in EU

- VET = Career and technical education
- National responsibility: 27 national systems
- No harmonization at European level
- European level cooperation:
  - Identification of joint challenges and priorities: commitment to a joint “modernization agenda”
  - European level tools to connect the systems
  - EU program to support policy development and international mobility of students and faculty

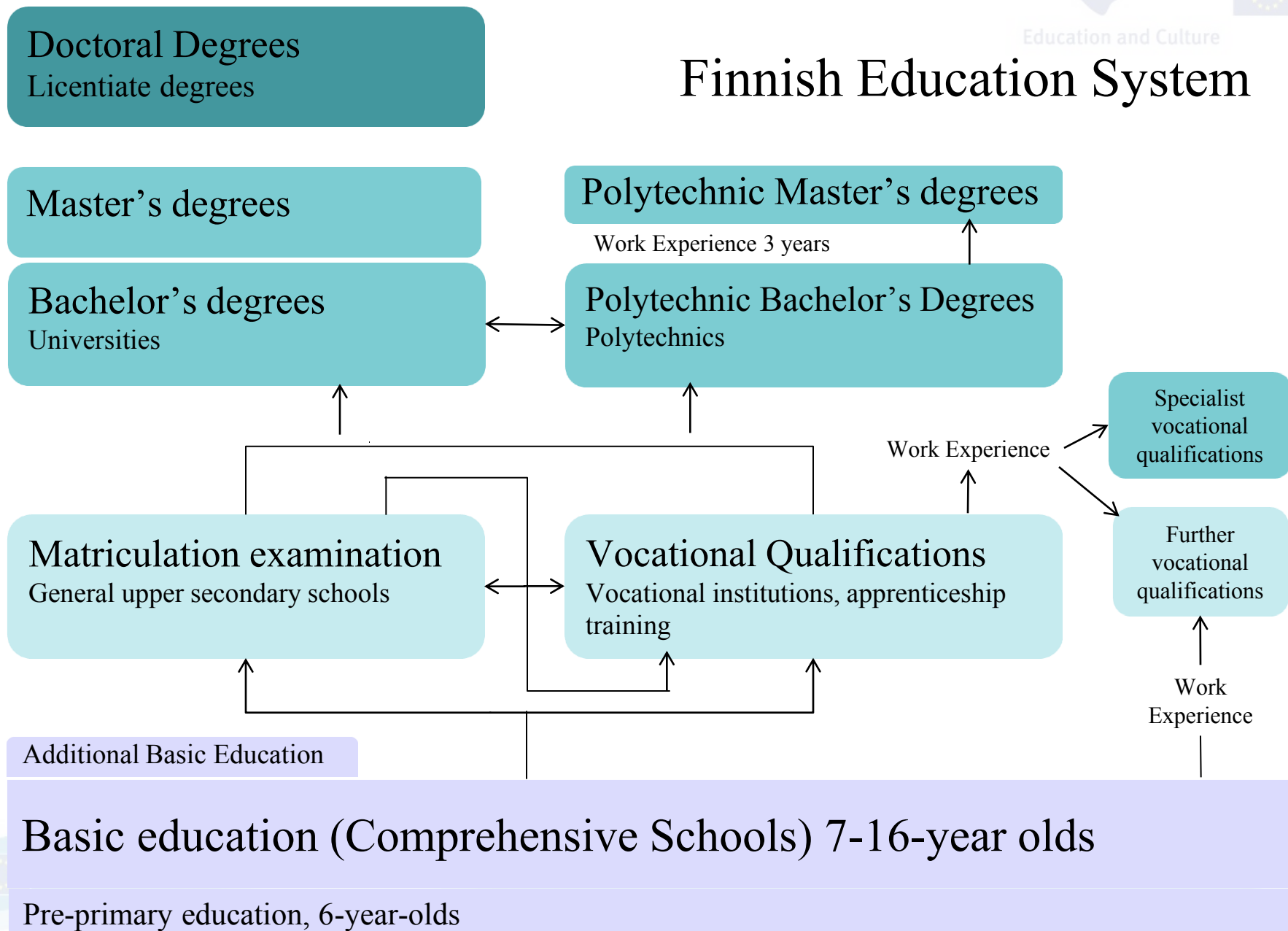
# Examples of European priorities

- Raising attractiveness of vocational training
- Improving quality and relevance of training
  - Importance of work-based learning
  - Balance between general and specific skills
- Better alignment between basic education, vocational training and higher education
- International learning mobility

## Finland has a well regarded VET



# Finnish Education System



# VET in Finland – systemic aspects

- Possibility to graduate simultaneously from general upper secondary schools
- Pathways to higher education
- Proximity: +/- 150 Vocational training providers, most with multi-campus settings
- +/- 50 % of young people go to VET

# Typical academic route: School Teacher or Architect

Master's degrees

Bachelor's degrees  
Universities

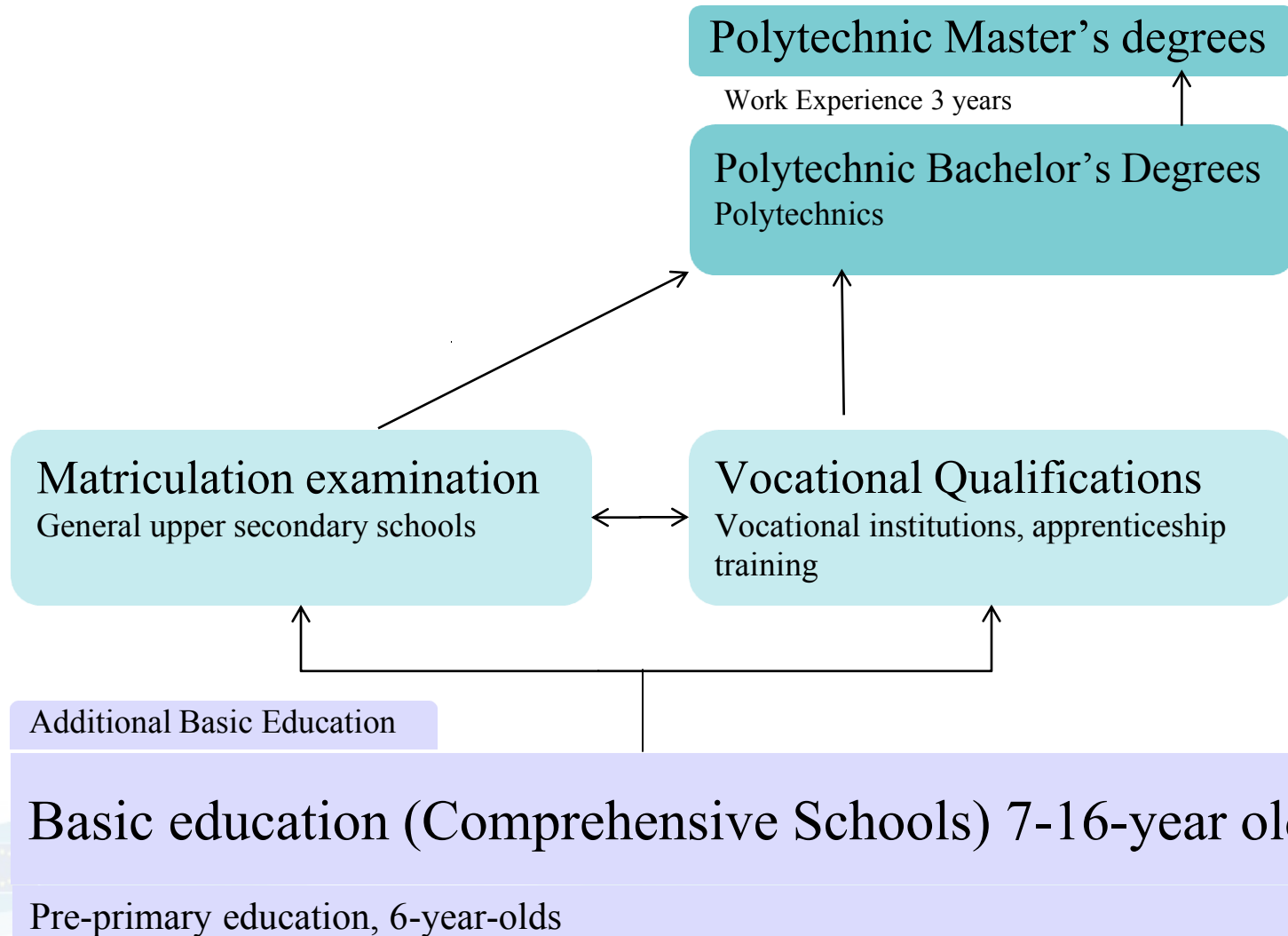
Matriculation examination  
General upper secondary schools

Additional Basic Education

Basic education (Comprehensive Schools) 7-16-year olds

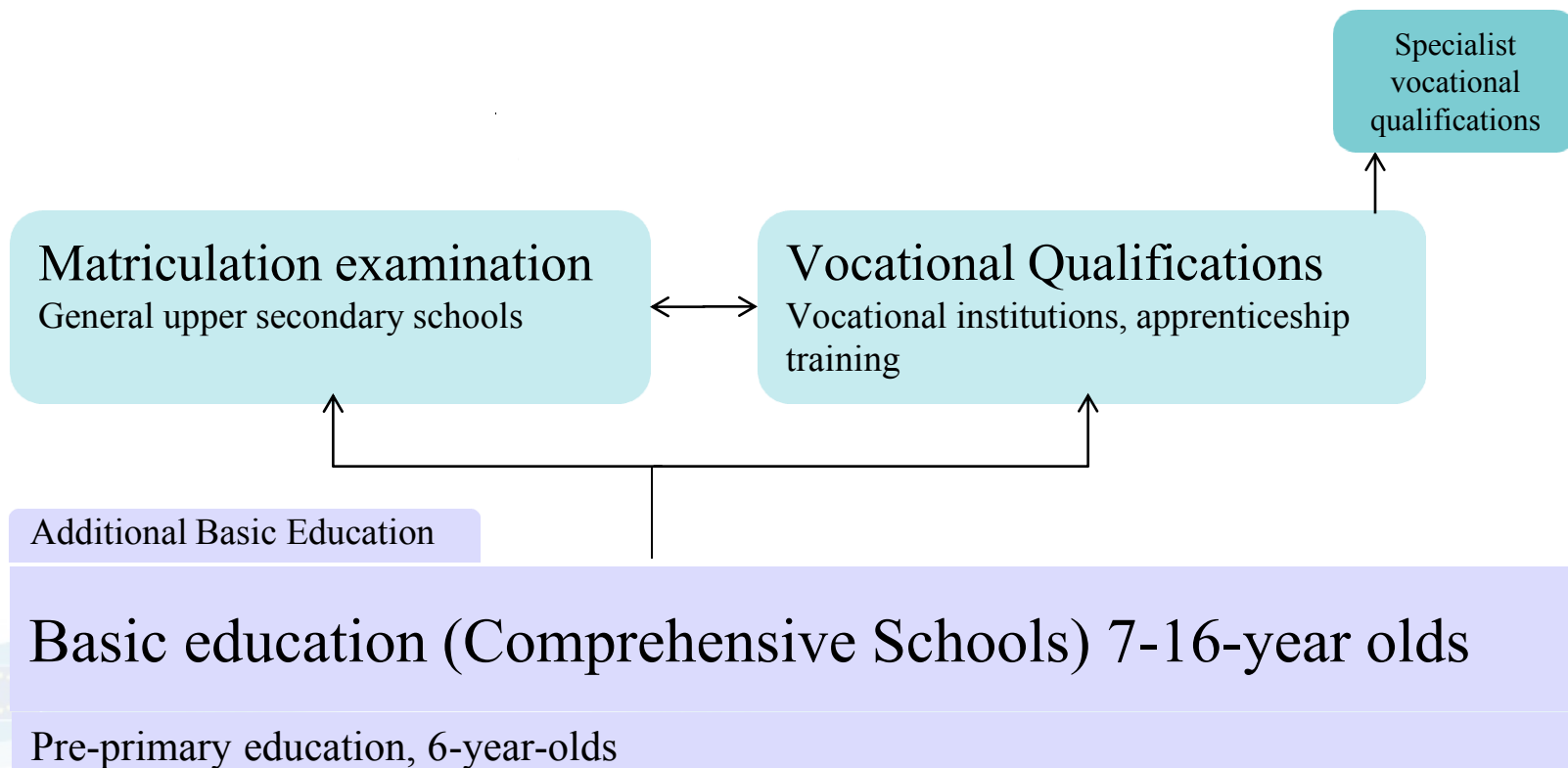
Pre-primary education, 6-year-olds

# Typical applied sciences route: Engineer or Nurse





# Typical vocational route: technician - electronics



# VET in Finland - quality and relevance

- Labor market relevant qualification – national level forecasts on labor force demand
- Work based learning – at least 6 months in a business or other workplace
- Public financing: state/local +/- 45%/55 %  
3 % of state financing is performance based

# Low school dropout

- Overall completion rate is high: 90 % of 24-35 year old Finns have completed at least upper secondary level.
- Early supportive intervention in basic education
- Dropout rate in VET has decreased from 13,5% in 2000 to 8,5 % in 2009
- Drop out rate has been one of the indicators for performance based financing in VET – active prevention at institution level

# Finnish Education System

